(a) obtaining a sample from the subject;

(b) detecting the level of CTGF in the sample; and

(c) comparing the level of CTGF in the sample to a standard level of CTGF.

17. (Amended) A diagnostic kit for use in diagnosing a [renal disrder] renal disorder characterized by [the] overproduction of extracellular matrix, or identifying a predisposition or susceptibility to a renal disorder characterized by [the] overproduction of extracellular matrix, the method comprising:

(a) a means for detecting the level of CTGF in a sample; and

(b) a means for measuring the level of CTGF in the sample.

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were originally filed and are subject to a Restriction Requirement. Claims 14 and 17 are amended above, and claims 1-18 are pending.

Support for the amendments is as follows. The amendments to the claims correct typographical errors. No new matter is added by these amendments.

I. Restriction Requirement

In the Restriction Requirement dated 28 April 00, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following groups of claims:

Group I: claims 1-3 and 9-11;
Group II: claims 1, 2, 4, and 9-11;
Group III: claims 1, 2, 5, and 9-11;
Group IV: claims 1, 2, 6, and 9-11;
Group V: claims 1, 2, 7, and 9-11;